

This Day is Published,

NUMBER I. Price ONE SHILLING.

(To be continued Weekly.) And,

PART I. Price TEN SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE,

(Containing No. I. to X. inclusive,) of

THE GARDENER'S AND BOTANIST'S DICTIONARY;

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Printed by Bye and Law, St. John's Square, Clerkenwell.

TO THE PUBLIC.

THE GARDENER'S DICTIONARY, by the late Mr. Philip Miller, has continued unrivalled as a Book of Gardening, since the first edition in folio of 1731: and the anxious expectation of a new edition from the time that the eighth was out of print, is a sufficient proof that the high reputation which this work had enjoyed during more than half a century, is not in any degree diminished.

It would have been easy for the Proprietors to have reprinted the last edition as it stood, or only with such corrections and additions as might have been made with very little trouble. But considering the vast influx of new plants during the last twenty years, and the present prevailing taste for Gardening and Botany, they presumed it would be acceptable to the Public if the original Plan were enlarged from a partial to a complete enumeration and description of Plants, whilst all the improvements in culture that have been made since the death of Mr. Miller were added.

On this occasion it may not be improper to give a short account of what is to be expected from the present Editor, and what improvements and additions are here made to the last folio edition of Mr. MILLER'S GARDENER'S DICTIONARY of 1768.

With respect to the Botanic part, the author wishes the Public to consider the work now offered to them as a sort of Digest of the Botany of the present time. Every species of Vegetable will be enumerated, from the last edition of Linneus's *Systema Vegetabilium*, with an exception to the numerous minute tribes of Mosses, Algæ or Sea-weeds, and Fungi or Mushrooms; of which such sorts only will be detailed as are used for food, or in the arts; and a general account given of the rest. To have done more on the subject of plants which scarcely admit of cultivation, would have swelled this work beyond any reasonable bounds, with matter little interesting to the majority of our readers; and must unavoidably have very much delayed a publication already too long withheld from the public eye. All the plants which more modern authors have added to Linneus's stock will carefully be inserted in their proper places.

Very

Very little satisfaction however could be derived from a mere enumeration of the species. To this therefore every thing is added that can in any degree conduce to make our readers acquainted with the plants themselves. The generic term being accented and explained, the class and order to which the genus belongs, both in the artificial and natural arrangement, are set down. The natural character is faithfully translated from Schreber's edition of Linneus's *Genera Plantarum*, with variations and corrections from subsequent authors: the essential characters both of the genus and species are given, chiefly from the *Systema Vegetabilium*: the synonyms of the most approved authors, especially such as have figured the plants, are added with all possible brevity; and although the references be in general very numerous, yet few will be given that do not lead to some useful information. Then follows what may be called the history of each species: the description of all its parts in regular order, from the root to the fructification; its duration, time of flowering, place of growth, and uses both medicinal and oeconomical; together with the era of its introduction among us, if an exotic, and such other interesting information as could be obtained.

To this body of information nothing seems wanting to bring us acquainted with the numerous species of Vegetables, except a good figure of each in its natural size and proper colours. Every one immediately sees that such a plan of elucidation is wholly chimerical, from its enormous expense and difficulty; and a few scattered plates of plants would answer no end that is not already accomplished by the figures which Mr. Miller himself published to accompany his Dictionary, and which may now be had for the same purpose. No expense however will be spared in having such plates engraved as in any degree contribute to render this work really useful.

With respect to the Practical part, Mr. Miller's authority is such, that the substance of what he has directed with respect to the mode of propagation and culture is in general retained. All therefore that can be done on this head is, to give directions for the cultivation of new plants, and to add whatever could be obtained from authentic books, or reputable living authority, particularly on forcing fruits, on the important subject of Planting timber and other trees, and on the principles of Landscape Gardening.

On a comparison of the work now offered to the Public with that which received the last hand of Mr. Miller, the most obvious enlargement

enlargement will appear to be, that a complete enumeration is here given of all, except the minuter tribes of plants never cultivated, accompanied with copious descriptions selected with care from the best authors, wherever they could be obtained; whereas Mr. Miller's enumeration is confessedly partial, consisting of such plants chiefly as were in his time generally brought into cultivation. That readers may judge for themselves, whatever is added by the Editor that is material, is included between hooks or crotchets; and whatever is not his own he has carefully referred to its proper author, by a reference at the foot of the page. The *improvement* most immediately striking will probably be the arrangement of the matter. By keeping the *Scientific*, *Popular* and *Practical* parts of the work separate, those who consult our Dictionary are enabled to satisfy their respective wants with facility: and what before was confused and obscure, now becomes distinct and obvious. Other additions and improvements, of smaller moment, we rather leave to the candid attention of our readers, than enlarge upon them at present.

It will probably be remarked that many general articles, particularly those which are philosophical, have been omitted by the present editor. Some of these, he must confess, appear to be out of their place in this work; and it seems better to refer such general articles as ought to be retained to the Introduction, than to insert them in the body of the Dictionary itself.

If the GARDENER'S AND BOTANIST'S DICTIONARY were to be considered only as a vast mass of information collected from a variety of the most scarce and valuable books, not accessible to the generality of mankind, and written in a language little understood at least by practical men; the Editor flatters himself that it will meet with the approbation and encouragement of a candid Public. Whatever errors may appear in the course of it, no attention or industry has been wanting to avoid them, and every nerve has been strained to render this work as complete in its kind as the nature of so extensive an undertaking will allow.

N. B. The greater part of this work being printed off, Purchasers may be supplied with one or more Numbers, weekly or monthly, as most convenient.

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